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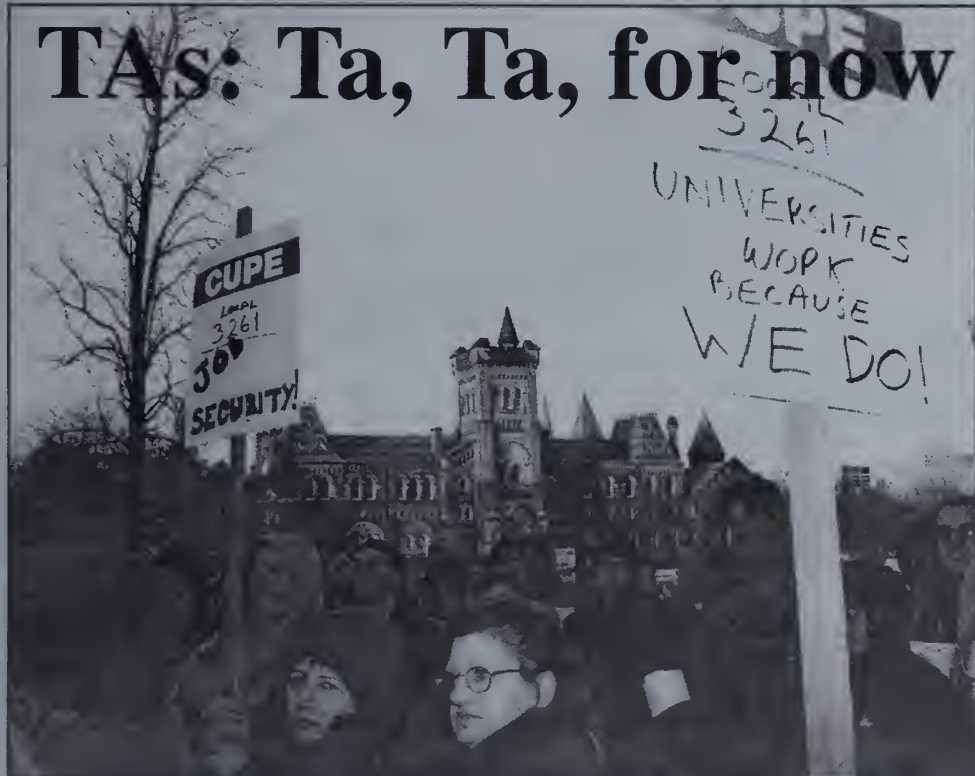
The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 15

JANUARY 10, 2000

TAs: Ta, Ta, for now



University of Toronto TAs stand in the cold at a rally Friday to kick off their strike against administration. They are striking until administration includes tuition relief clauses in a new contract. photo/Avril Loreti

BY MARK BUDGELL

Undergraduate students at UTM can expect traffic jams, longer waits for exams and papers to be returned, and possible course cancellations after U of T TAs voted in favour of striking until their demands for a contract with tuition waivers is met.

U of T administration has warned students to expect traffic delays Monday and throughout the week, as TAs – members of CUPE 3902 – will begin picketing at each of the campuses. A memo sent to union members from the vice-president and provost's office also warned that they would withdraw half courses where a TA has sole responsibility, unless they can find an alternative teacher. Administration has also promised to lock out the striking TAs from the university.

The strike comes after CUPE 3902 members voted overwhelmingly in a meeting last Thursday to reject administration's latest offer. The offer included a wage increase of 1.5 per cent, an additional year of appointment for PhDs, and \$75,000 funding for a dental plan. Union members rejected the offer because it did not include tuition waivers, which would help offset rising tuition costs.

Many members were pleased with the collective

decision to strike.

"We're ready to stand up for what we believe in," said Katrina Srigley, a CUPE 3902 member.

"I think it's better to strike now, the other options were silly," said Dan Mellamphy. "It's good that the collective voice was pretty much the same. The unions going to march forth. I don't see any reason for more delays."

Some TAs said that the strike was overdue, after an executive decision by the CUPE 3902 bargaining committee postponed the December 22 strike deadline.

"I thought we voted [in favour of striking] as of December 22," said TA Thor Burnham, "I thought it was undemocratic of the committee to postpone. A lot of members were pissed off."

Klaus Jahn, also a member of CUPE 3902, expressed similar sentiments.

"This is a demonstration that we're not blinking [this time and] that we're good to go," said Jahn. "Maybe this will make the university blink now."

CUPE 3902 members have argued throughout their

TAs continued on page 3

Co-op convenience store in jeopardy

BY MARK BUDGELL

SAC student leaders have found that their initiative to run a non-profit, on-campus convenience store at UTM is jeopardized by exclusivity contracts the university has with companies like The Press, owners of the bookstore, Aramark, and Panzerotto Pizza.

The problem has student leaders questioning the benefits of all exclusivity contracts, including a recently proposed beverage agreement that would give Coke or Pepsi exclusive rights to beverage sales on campus.

Anwar Ahmed, SAC Erindale chair, said that business services has informed SAC that the convenience store cannot sell several types of products. The sale of items like stationery, greeting cards, books, clothing, computer supplies, and beverages and snacks are either restricted or controlled because other companies already supply the products on-campus. Business services has also told SAC that any beverage agreement the university enters into will place limitations on the product line of beverages the store can sell.

According to Ahmed, these restrictions seriously jeopardize the store's financial viability.

"We've done research and found that without these restrictions it's hard to break

even with a convenience store type of operation," said Ahmed. "We knew that before we went into this operation, what we did not know was how severe the restrictions on what we could sell would be. Now we're having second thoughts."

SAC vice-president and Erindale student Paul Kutasi is also worried that the restrictions will make it impossible for the store to succeed.

"It doesn't look like we'll be able to run a successful store," said Kutasi. "What we mean by successful is where we break even because we are a co-op store and not a profit store. We're not there to make a huge profit."

Ahmed said that the agreements the university has with companies like The Press, Aramark, and Panzerotto Pizza are unfair because they limit choice and force the university to treat student initiatives – such as the variety store – like profit-oriented endeavors.

"I feel that the exclusivity contracts signed to date have been to the detriment of students," said Ahmed, "because of the simple fact that they prevent organizations like ours from providing competitive pricing for students, and providing an alternative choice for students and that is what

Students continued on page 4



Anwar Ahmed, SAC Erindale Chair, stands outside room in Student Centre designated for a Co-op convenience store. photo/Avril Loreti

Students disappointed with ROSI's bloom

BY TRACY MONIZ

With the Repository of Student Information (ROSI) more than halfway through its first year of operation, students feel system improvements are still needed.

Some students have expressed dissatisfaction with ROSI's accessibility. Currently, ROSI is available via the telephone and internet, on weekdays from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m., and unlike previous years, also during the weekend. "I don't think it's good

enough," said second-year student Peter Milbourn. "Service ends at 11 p.m. We're in university where many students work and are up much later than that." Third-year student Saher Zuberi has also had difficulty accessing the system. "The main problem I have had is not being able to get through the phone lines. I've tried to call with a cell phone in one hand and a cordless phone in the other, and still can't get through," she said.

Most students, however, do agree

that ROSI provides better service than the previous system. "It's much clearer than the old system," said third-year student Pratheeba Siva. With ROSI, students now have access to a wider variety of services formerly available only through the Registrar's Office. "It does make it much easier to view your academic history and obtain a transcript," said Zuberi.

Dr. Eva Swenson, U of T director of Student Information Services, foresees future improvements. "I wouldn't say that this hour increase

from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. is the only one that will be made, but we first need to become comfortable with the amount of time it takes the system to update student and course information changes overnight," said Swenson. "We want information to be concrete. The system needs time to process information, and we can't have people on-line making changes while the system is doing that," said Registrar Mark Overton.

Degree continued on page 3

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Annie Smith 10

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Hey, pecker. What's the story?"

– Life at the Centre, page 6

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Mystery meeting delays athletics student council elections

Principal calls last minute meeting to make important changes

BY TRACY MONIZ

Principal McNutt put ECARA elections temporarily on hold when he announced that he will hold a meeting this week with election officials. The meeting is anticipated to spark major changes in UTM Athletics, however, what these decisions are remains unclear, as does the agenda for the meeting.

Mike Giordano, former ECSU president and Chief Returning Officer, is responsible for overseeing the elections. "I had everything ready and was going to open elections this week, but those plans have been delayed until this meeting takes place," he said. Both Giordano and Abid Chaudry, former ECARA Vice-President of Finance, and required to attend the meeting.

"The principal wants to move this along. We need people to get

in gear and kickstart the new student athletics council," said Les McCormick, dean of student affairs. McCormick believes that the meeting is an opportunity to discuss what has already been accomplished, what remains to be done, and a chance to determine a final timeline for a new council to be elected.

The election of new student representation in athletics has been delayed much longer than expected. "Things are taking a long time, and there will be a gap in student leadership because of this," said Mary Ann Piskalnetis, director of Athletics and Recreation. "We (UTM Athletics) are not really informed about what is happening with the elections, and we are not responsible for it either. The responsibility for ECARA elections has been left in other people's hands. Regardless, we do need them to happen fairly soon," she said.

Chaudry was responsible for drafting the new ECARA constitution, a constitution that was later

rejected. Neither Chaudry nor Giordano were involved in the decision to dismiss the constitution. "I was totally unaware of it," said Chaudry. "I agreed to write the constitution because I wanted to be responsible to students. I'm disheartened about all of it, but I will be satisfied as long as by the year's end, we have a constitution

"I agreed to write the constitution because I wanted to be responsible to students. I'm disheartened about all of it, but I will be satisfied as long as by the year's end, we have a constitution that is fair and just, and that students have what they want, which, ultimately, is a voting say."

— Abid Chaudry

that is fair and just, and that students have what they want, which, ultimately, is a voting say."

Elections will be run based on the old ECARA constitution. However, once elected, one of the central responsibilities of the new council will be to mandate a new constitution.

Giordano and Chaudry both said that they are unaware of the reasons why the constitution was rejected. According to McCormick, the transition team was to deliver a

revised constitution by June 1999. "They didn't do this. The constitution was delivered to the Principal, and only the Principal, in mid-fall. It wasn't a revised constitution either. It was the old ECARA constitution with some notes written on it," he said. Chaudry, however, said that he carried out his responsibility of drafting a new constitution, which he later copied and distributed to the different people involved. Regardless, the issue of drafting a new constitution and the problems associated with it have caused

delays.

According to Chaudry, elections were not called any earlier because he wanted to guarantee that students had a majority say in athletics. "I am negotiating for students," he said. Among the positive resolutions reached is a student majority on athletics' governing council, budget committee, programming committee. "We have given students enough autonomy within athletics to guarantee they have a say," said Chaudry.

As part of his efforts, Chaudry negotiated an increase in the funds received by ECARA. "The main change made so far is with the percentage of student fees that ECARA will receive, and be free to allocate with no interference from the athletics department," said Giordano. Chaudry said that the new council will receive \$8.60 from each student fee, which adds up to an estimated \$43,000. These funds will be available for the new council to use, once elected.

Whether the soon-to-be-elected council members hold their positions until the end of the spring term, or remain on ECARA through the entire summer remains unknown, as does the question of when elections for the 2000-2001 ECARA council will take place. McCormick hopes that such issues will be addressed at this week's meeting.

Parking fees to increase

BY MARK BUDGELL

"Students planning to purchase a parking pass this year or next can expect a small increase in fees.

According to a budget approved at last week's College Affairs Committee and Resource Planning and Priorities Committee meeting, parking fees will increase by three per cent this year and annually thereafter. The increase translates into an added eight dollars annually for full-year reserved and seven dollars for unreserved passes. Day passes will also increase from \$6.25 to \$6.50.

Christine Capewell, manager of business services, said that the increase is minimal because the revenue has increased dramatically.

"People seem to be buying parking permits, they are more popular this year than last," said Capewell.

The three per cent increase actually marks a drop in fee increase rate from previous years. For the three years from 1997-1998 to 1999-2000, rates increased by ten per cent annually. This year's increase is also a reduction from the originally proposed five per cent increase for the year.

Some student leaders, however, said that the university should not have increased fees, or should have reduced them if revenue was up.

"If volume [of sales] is increasing, why is it necessary to increase rates?" asked Laurie Schirripa, ECSU president.

"I think it is only logical that, if they are making more than they anticipated, they should be keeping the fees constant or decreasing them," said Schirripa.

According to Capewell, total revenue from the passes increased by about \$50,000 this year. The surplus from parking fees is transferred to the UTM operating budget in order to offset government cuts to university funding.

Schirripa said that the university should not rely on student money from parking fees to offset budget cuts.

"They shouldn't rely on a surplus created from student parking fees to offset government budget cuts. They should be looking for other sources of revenue."



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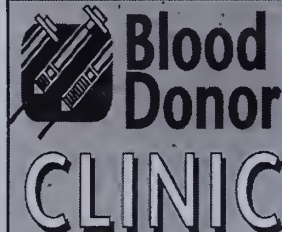
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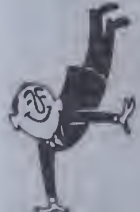
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TAs to strike until demands for tuition relief met

Continued from front

negotiations with administration that, without tuition waivers, wage increases are of little use if tuition costs continue to rise.

Hayssam Hulays, chair of CUPE 3902, said that the financial strain caused by high tuition diminishes the quality of TA's work. He said that TAs wouldn't accept any offer unless it reduces that strain.

"If there was something on tuition in here it would probably be acceptable to our members. Wage increases are useless if tuition increases," said Hulays.

According to Hulays the current financial status of TAs hurts their work performance.

"A TA who is high on Tylenol three because they can't afford dental work is not an effective TA," said

Hulays.

Hulays said that students who are upset with any inconveniences the strike could cause should confront administration.

"The undergraduates should be really pissed off at U of T," said Hulays, who added that the strike will make life easier for undergraduates who are considering graduate school.

CUPE 3902 members began their strike Friday with a rally outside of Convocation Hall. Union members holding pickets yelled slogans

"I want you to know that Canada's biggest union stands behind you all the way. We're going to turn U of T upside down then right-side up again."

— Judy Darcy

like, "One, two, three, four, all we want is a little more. Five, six, seven, eight, U of T negotiate," and "Show us the money."

York TAs, whose hard won contract with York University was touted by U of T TAs as an example of an



About two to three hundred picketers, and supporters of CUPE 3902, stand in cold outside convocation hall. CUPE international president Judy Darcy, and York TAs were present to show support for the local chapter's cause. photo/Avril Loreti

equitable contract, and Judy Darcy, president of CUPE International, were on hand to show support for CUPE 3902's strike initiative.

Darcy gave a fiery address to the crowd gathered in the cold Friday afternoon.

"CUPE is not looking for a war," said Darcy. "But, they [U of T administration] drew that line in the sand and we're going to win this war."

She assured the local CUPE chapter that the rest of CUPE International, an organization of nearly 500,000 members nationwide, supported their endeavor to acquire a more equitable contract.

"I want you to know that Canada's biggest union stands behind you all the way. We're going to turn U of T upside down then right-side up again," she said.

"We're fed up with having this institution saying they are world class and number one and paying their employees third rate wages," said Darcy.

Erindale students taking Mississauga transit or UTM shuttle buses will be dropped off and picked up at temporary stop along Mississauga Road.

What UTM students can expect:

- Traffic jams along Mississauga Road.
- Both university and public transit systems dropping fares along Mississauga Road.
- Possible cancellations of some classes.



Hayssam Hulays, CUPE 3902 chair, at Friday's TA rally. Hulays wants administration to give TAs tuition relief.

photo/Avril Loreti

Degree Navigator delayed

Continued from front

Swenson hopes to see a new software system implemented that may allow the overnight computer processing and regular access to occur simultaneously, making ROSI accessible 24 hours a day.

The launching of Degree Navigator, an academic planning program, has also been delayed. The programme was originally set to be made available to students in the spring of 1999, however, according to Swenson, it is now anticipated to start next fall.

The programme will allow students to determine information such as eligibility for graduation. With this programme, students can also compare their academic record to program requirements to determine which courses are needed to complete these requirements, and whether credits can be transferred between programmes.

"The programme has been unavailable to students in order to ensure that it is as accurate as we can make it. We want to avoid any confusion or frustration on the part of students using it," said Swenson.

Swenson also said that the major challenge has been making sure that all of the rules for programme enrollment in the academic course calendar are

"The programme has been unavailable to students in order to ensure that it is as accurate as we can make it."

— Eva Swenson

correctly understood and entered. "We have had to confirm many requirements that are rather vague in the calendar, and which may also change from year to year. There are a lot of steps and it has taken time," said Swenson.

A test period by Registrar's office staff will take place before the programme is made available to students. "Everyone has the common goal of having the programme up as soon as possible," said Overton.



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Student leaders and administration clash over cola agreement

Continued from front
we are here for."

The Cola Agreement

Ahmed, along with ECSU president Laurie Schirripa and other UTM student leaders, are responding to the exclusivity deals by campaigning against the most recently proposed deal, a beverage agreement with Coke or Pepsi that would allow the bottler exclusive rights to cola sales on campus.

Student leaders are especially upset because it is likely that the exact terms of any agreement – specifically the dollar amounts involved – with either of the cola companies would not be disclosed to students. Administration, however, has attempted to alleviate student concerns by assuring them that any money received in a cola exclusivity agreement would be put to use improving student life by upgrading facilities in the Student Centre, or establishing scholarship funds.

Still, some UTM student leaders are adamant that an exclusivity deal would undermine certain principles that are important to universities.

"I hate exclusivity deals," said Schirripa. "I think that competition and choice are very important at a university."

Schirripa, earlier in the year, promised to lead a boycott against on-campus beverages should administration not pay close attention to student opinions on the agreement.

"If they sign a deal without student approval I would encourage a boycott," said Schirripa.

In defense

Christine Capewell, manager of business services at UTM and chief promoter for a beverage agreement, has said that such agreements are standard practice for universities and that the problems SAC is having with the convenience store are the result of business naivete.

"I do realize that they operate The Hangar downtown, but things that are very, very normal and expected when we deal with a supplier seem to be very shocking to them," said Capewell, "which indicates to me that they are just not used to these types of processes."

According to Capewell, the agreements

UTM entered into with The Press, Aramark, Panzerotto, and even the pub were not intended to restrict student initiatives like the variety store.

"Certainly the agreements we have entered into with the bookstore, food services, and even the pub didn't expect a

when they connect the problems with the variety store to an exclusivity cola deal. She said that the agreements with Aramark, the bookstore, and Panzerotto are not traditional exclusivity contracts.

"I think that people largely misuse the word exclusivity," she said.

to a beverage agreement," said Capewell. "They are a result of very old contracts and agreements we have had with The Press."

According to Capewell, the university will not make exceptions for student organizations from the exclusivity contracts, because it would be unfair for the compa-

The Principal's promise

Principal McNutt, who is responsible for making the final decision on whether or not to accept an exclusivity agreement with either of the cola companies, has promised to listen to students' opinions when he makes his decision.

"If the sense is that people don't want it, we won't have it," said McNutt.

He urged students not to make hasty decisions and to consider all of the possible benefits that would result from an agreement.

"They'll be [student] beneficiaries," said McNutt, "it's not going to disappear into my budget."

Faculty reactions

Last week, faculty members and administration had the opportunity to express their concerns about the proposed agreement. Some of them expressed concern about excessive cola advertising, and the commercialization of the campus.

"I am very concerned with commercialization of the campus," said biology Professor Robert Reisz.

Political Science professor Peter Silcox expressed similar concerns.

"I'm not too concerned about variety," said Silcox. "What concerns me is that this company is going to exploit the relationship for commercial value."

"I don't care about Coke. I do care about becoming the Coca Cola lecturer," said Silcox.

Others seemed more supportive of a possible agreement.

Chief administrative officer Glenn Walker said "exclusivity isn't novel." He argued that most restaurants already have exclusivity contracts with Coke or Pepsi, and that their patrons rarely notice or complain.

Cleo Boyd, director of the Academic Skills

centre, made similar comments.

She said that neither of the cola companies would take part in offensive advertising, because it would not encourage students to buy their product. Boyd said that the UTM community should instead focus on the possible benefits of an agreement.

"Don't assume that they're the bad guys," said Boyd, "but think about what they can do for us."



Christine Capewell, far right, updates administration and faculty members on plans to seek out Cola agreement. Some faculty members are afraid that Coca Cola, or Pepsi slogans, like the one the pop machine above, will become more prevalent on campus should the school sign a deal.

SAC members and other student leaders are upset because exclusivity deals are jeopardizing an on-campus convenience store.

convenience store," said Capewell.

Capewell said that SAC, and other UTM student leaders, are misguided

"I think that the restrictions we have placed on the convenience store aren't really connected, as far as I'm concerned,

nies involved.

"No we're not going to change all the agreements by which the whole community operates to rearrange ourselves around what the convenience store needs to break even," said Capewell.

"We have signed contracts with these suppliers that cover at least the next five years, that they have the right to sell on campus and nobody else does."



photos/Avril Loreti

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Blind Duck a juvenile hall

BY TRACY MONIZ

The Blind Duck Pub has gone all ages.

The decision was made by the Pub Management Board in November.

"I think it's a fantastic idea," said ECSU president Laurie Schirripa. "Going to pub is a big part of student life. About 75 per cent of first year students are underage this year, and they shouldn't have to miss out on it," she said. With the double cohort on its way, the number of underage first year students will increase in the next couple of years.

Schirripa believes that an all-age pub is necessary and something that students want. "It was in demand because underage students with fake I.D.s have tried to get into pub," she said.

Increasing sales is another reason for the pub going all ages. "I'm not going to say that it's not a reason, but it's not

the main reason," said Schirripa.

According to Schirripa, very strict controls will be in place to ensure that underage students are not served alcohol. "There will be a special pub card that identifies them as underage students," said Schirripa.

Students will have to apply for the card through pub manager Maxine Dawkins. "Students will be told of all of the legal implications of underage drinking by Maxine before they can get the card, and then made to sign a contract" said Schirripa.

Before student can get into the pub, they must turn in their card to one of the bouncers, and later pick it up from the same bouncer before leaving. Schirripa said that at the end of the night, when a student picks up their card, if it looks like that student has been drinking, they will be banned from pub and will not be able to re-apply for a new one.

EDITORIAL

THE MEDIUM

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Coke case

Coke was the question again last Thursday at Q.S.S.

The question opened more than a can of pop. Students and faculty are asking, 'What's a better pop?' 'How much corporate presence is too much?' 'What can the SAC convenience store sell?'

Students should be concerned with the commercialization of our campus. As some St. George student groups pointed out last year, companies like Coca-Cola and Pepsi have bad human-rights records. PepsiCo opened a plant in Burma in the early nineties in the midst of a bloody political regime. Coca-Cola has been criticized for co-sponsoring events organized by General Sanni Abacha, a militant who forcefully overthrew the democratically elected government in 1993.

Recently, the U of T has taken a strong stand against dealing with companies who run sweatshops. The bookstore will not buy products from companies known to run sweatshops. But the U of T will buy pop from companies that open shop in countries run by murdering tyrants. What does the U of T stand for?

But enough with the St. George rhetoric.

Before UTM sides with a single cola manufacturer, it needs to see if the community wants a single cola choice and the money associated with the contract.

At last week's Q.S.S. meeting the split seemed clear.

We know where the principal and business services stand - they're ready to strip and sell the bark from Erindale's trees if the price is right. A lot of faculty and students are opposed to selling any part of the college, or limiting people's freedom of choice, no matter how much money is involved. ECSU president Laurie Schirripa said that she is ready to boycott on-campus beverages.

The principal promised that he wouldn't sign a cola contract if students didn't want it. Great, but the information students need to make the decision - how much money is involved - is secret until after the deal is closed. And after the deal is closed, students will have to sift through college budgets to find the amount. Faculty have said that they also want to know how much money is involved. Before the school proceeds any further with pop planning, the principal should hold a formal vote to see if the college should proceed with the cola deal.

Students associate the issue of an exclusive cola contract, and exclusivity contracts in general, with the SAC convenience store. SAC wants to sell whatever students want. The school wants to restrict the kinds of things that the store can sell because of exclusivity contracts they have with other companies, for instance, with the bookstore, and, probably, with Coca-Cola.

SAC sought the convenience store contract because they did not feel that students were getting reliable service and competitively priced items. The bookstore's crummy service is legendary; its selection is painfully bad.

This is more than a simple case of student naiveté. This is more than a case of silly students not understanding business. This is a case of bad business on behalf of the university.

If SAC can give students better service with a better selection at a better price, why is the school stopping them? Is the school against students getting a good deal?

Why is the school regulating what SAC can sell and for how much they can sell it? Because they have contracts with other companies.

Perhaps Erindale should rethink its business policies. Perhaps UTM should move away from exclusive contracts and stop regulating prices. The way UTM runs its food services and business right now isn't working. If they did, the bookstore would have good service and a decent selection of products. The quality of food and the pricing of food at every food outlet on-campus would improve.

This campus could use a dose of the real world - god knows that the fantasy project called the Student Centre could have used some real world sense during its planning and construction. Let SAC sell whatever they want to. Let Panzerotto Pizza sell whatever they want for whatever they want. Let the market force Aramark and the bookstore to change, and if they can't change, or won't change, let them go. Competitive business might give everybody what they want but aren't getting right now: quality.

Exclusive contracts don't guarantee quality.

The Medium is published weekly by Medium II Publications, a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. The Medium's mandate is to inform students of local and national concerns, and give Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism. Retail and community advertising provided exclusively by The Mississauga News. National advertising provided exclusively by Campus Network. Mark Budgell courtesy of Hillbillies Inc. The Medium plays Les Paul air guitars and Sabian air cymbals exclusively.

Mark discovered milk. It was an empirical discovery. Welcome aboard, Tracy "Rocco Van Zant" Moniz. Adam kicked Mark's ass.

Principal McNutt, the students don't want a cola deal.

Oh yeah? Well, they wanted an athletics council election too. Let's sign that contract. I'm thirsty!



LETTERS

Drama of the gifted building

Dear editor,

On a bright cold day in December, I took my first full walk through Kohn-Shnier's new UTM Student Centre, and I was thrilled. I had been in the glorious bright pub and the various rooms downstairs before, but I hadn't yet seen the complex and stunning spaces upstairs: the fabulous lounges; white leather sofas looking out into the woods framed by a large window; the sun-soaked study room also facing the woods and populated with well-designed chairs and tables; and the sexy Fireplace lounge looking out over the Kaneff Centre. And what a floor they put in that space! Zippy! Nor had I been upstairs, with the cool banisters and all of the criss-crossing pathways. Nor had I seen that there are wonderful balconies for hanging out on nice days.

What mystified me then, and continues to puzzle me as I find that many of my students have not even been in the Student Centre, is that this architectural jewel is so little used and so poorly understood (and I understand from the reporting on the signage on the building, also at risk of being vandalized). From all of the complaints issuing forth from the Blind Duck Pub and The Medium, it seems the Student Centre is, like a gifted child, very, very misunderstood. But why? This isn't a building that is difficult to love: it's warm and upbeat, it's hip, it has nooks and crannies for privacy and open spaces in which to scope out the crowd. There's a place for everyone, and each and every place is inviting and filled with rather plush furniture. Architecture at its best ennobles us, it raises us to its level, and this is a building that makes you feel good. So why is this building - recently referred to by a male writer at The Medium as "an ugly girl" (an astonishing remark which seems to have slipped by unnoticed), - the brunt of so much criticism and not the source of more pride?

I am at a loss as to why this building,

which is so full of the virtues that so many other contemporary and institutional buildings lack, namely both light and warmth at the same time, isn't being embraced by the students who paid for it? From what I can gather, it is the dominance on campus of a few vocal people, those with an interest primarily in the pub's profits, and those who feel that students haven't been sufficiently consulted (on the corporate sponsorship signage dilemma), that have dominated discussion of the building. Is all of this negative discussion

If you hadn't noticed, good coffee houses are staples on all university campuses. And coffee sells for more than beer these days and more people drink it (than beer, surprise!), especially during the day (surprise!), which is when most people are on campus (surprise again!).

diverting the UTM students from the main purpose of the building: its use by students? And if the building is not being used by many students, is it the case that students aren't able to do the things that they would want to do in a student centre? Is it possible that the domination of the pub and its concerns in the actual process of making this building have shut out the needs of the very people it was meant to serve?

I understand that the pub is concerned about its revenues, and that for some strange nostalgia for the dark and putrid portable building, this glorious architecture has not measured up to the old squalor. Why is change so hard to embrace? Especially when the change is to a building that has won acclaim in Canada and is so successful architecturally that it will be

featured in an architectural journal alongside Columbia University's new student centre designed by world-famous architect Bernard Tschumi?

Equally hard to understand is why the Blind Duck isn't trying to take advantage of its new centrality and all the hours it is open during the week - during the day, and all the other nights besides pub night - to make a profit. In spending over \$10,000 on "Blinding" the pub with curtains and god-knows-what other compromising elements, rather than diversifying your offerings, you are missing a major opportunity.

I do not think I am alone in fantasizing about sitting in the pub during the day, with the light streaming in drinking a decent cup of coffee. And when I say decent I mean DECENT: not Tim Horton's, I mean Second Cup (or better) quality coffee: capooch, espresso, the real thing. If you hadn't noticed, good coffee houses are staples on all university campuses. And coffee sells for more than beer these days and more people drink it (than beer, surprise!), especially during the day (surprise!), which is when most people are on campus (surprise again!).

So, to the Blind Duck Pub, I beseech you to take the blinders off the duck's foam-covered eyes for a moment. Buy an excellent espresso machine and put it on your beautiful bar. Train some people to make it well and get a decent bakery to supply you with goodies and some decent sandwiches. To the bottom-liners of the Blind Duck management, I humbly offer two words of advice: SELL COFFEE. If you do so, the faculty will, I know for a fact, become your greatest fans. Maybe the students will too. And if the students persist in disliking the jewel of the UTM campus, we would gladly consider trading you for the rather dark and comparatively dank faculty club.

Professor Evonne Levy
Department of Fine Art, UTM

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor will be edited for spelling, grammar, style, coherence, and brevity. Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous, will not be published. Letters

reflect opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor-in-chief, other editors and staff, or The Medium's Board of Directors. In other words, just because we print it doesn't necessarily mean we agree with it. Submission does not guarantee publication. Submission of a letter to The Medium presumes the writer has read, and agrees with, this Policy. Please submit letters on disk.

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OPINION

No planning is good planning

For months we heard about the Y2K bug. When the bug was supposed to hit, planes would fall out of the sky; computers would crash and destroy the banking system; water and electrical systems would fail, leaving us to survive on meals of Spam, Mr. Noodles, and bottles of Evian. The buildup for this production was like the press for a Hollywood movie. The suspense was enormous.

Opinion

BY DUNCAN KOERBER

Honestly, I didn't think anything would happen – which is why I, unlike everyone else, was wholly unprepared for any potential catastrophe. I didn't buy a Coleman portable stove, or gas canisters, or a portable generator, or iodine pills for my water. But now I feel that, for the first time in my life, not preparing for something was the *proper* response. I never prepare for anything. Winter is a regular occurrence around here, yet I still haven't bought a scarf or a pair of gloves. I just go around freezing my ass off. But in the case of Y2K, my propensity for being unprepared saved me lots of money.

Just in case a bomb were to explode in a crowd on New Year's Eve, I stayed home.

Given the state of my home's electrical system, I would have been safer in a crowd downtown dancing with terrorists. But at home, with a cold beer and a hot woman by my side (*Or was it all a dream?*), I watched the ceremonies on CNN.

As the date changed over, the fireworks exploded – not the Russian nuclear warheads or Boris Yeltsin's vodka-ravaged gut. What a disappointment! Without mass hysteria and

infrastructure breakdowns, this New Year's seemed like any other.

CNN's reporters seemed as disappointed as I was. I'm sure news organizations like

CNN conscripted most of their journalists for the evening, putting them on standby to report on the bombings, nuclear meltdowns, and the ATMs that wouldn't spit out cash. In the journalists' sad voices you could sense their true feelings: *Could somebody blow something up or kill somebody already? Anybody seen O.J.?*

Quickly, this non-event became news, and the journalists jumped on the politicians like the Big Bad Wolf on Little Red Riding Hood. They questioned whether governments should have

spent so much money on ensuring Y2K compliance. Personally, I spent nothing to fix my Commodore 64. I just turned the clock back to 1979 – I can now play Lemonade Stand and Pong for another 20 years.

I wonder if countries and corporations spent too much on Y2K fixes. Look at all those backward, uncivilized countries like France and Italy – they had no problems, except that the

clock on the Eiffel tower failed and the Pope looked like he was about to crash like Windows 95. Other backward countries, including Japan, Australia, and you know, Mongolia, spent very little to

protect themselves against this problem, and faced few consequences. To be fair, these countries don't rely as heavily as we do on computer systems. One CNN financial reporter apparently ventured out to cosmopolitan Nigeria to find out if their on-line banking, automated teller, and stock on-line trading systems were okay. A solemn Nigerian told the desperate reporter, "Y2K makes no difference in Nigeria. We do not normally have light or water, so if we do now, it must be a bonus."

"...I watched the ceremonies on CNN. As the date changed over, the fireworks exploded – not the Russian nuclear warheads or Boris Yeltsin's vodka-ravaged gut."

Eight games

BY ROBERT PRICE

Ball hockey makes its triumphant return this week after a year-long cancellation. Imagine: an entire year without an outlet for Erindale's goons. Considering that the Blind Duck didn't see an increase in beer sales over the last year, I think that the goons have been saving their energy for one last, big, bloody ball hockey battle.

There are only 16 teams this year, so there are only eight games a week. In anticipation of the first, and last, ball hockey fight of the year, we've mutilated a great song.

Eight games a week
(sung to the tune of 'Eight Days a Week,' by John Lennon and Paul McCartney)

Oh, I need ball hockey, guess you know it's true.

Hope you don't blow it, dude, or I'll have to punch you.
Hip check, floor check,
Hip check, floor check,
I ain't got nothing to do, brotha,
Eight games a week.

Gonna play every day, man, ball hockey on my mind.

One course on my plate, man, ball hockey all the time.

Hit him, check him,
Hit him, check him,
I ain't got nothing but pain, brotha,
Eight games a week.

Eight games a week, I love it.
Eight games a week, is not enough to show I care

Gonna slash the ref, man, gonna make him bleed.
Gonna break Bristol U, man, that's just what I need.
Gang warfare,
Gang warfare,
I ain't got patience for organized sport, man,
Eight games a week.

Eight games a week, I need it.
Eight games a week. Rules? I don't care.

Love it everyday, man, always on my mind.
One thing I can say, man, let's act like reprobates.

I'm gonna take the 'tact' out of non-contact, man.

I ain't gonna let them sissify the men's league, man.

Holding, sticking,
Holding, sticking,
I ain't gonna change my 'tude, dude,
Eight games a week.

Eight games a week, I love it.
Eight games a week, is not enough to show I care

Stuff it, shove it,
Stuff it, shove it,
I wanna crack some heads, man,
Eight games a week,
Eight games a week,
Eight games a week.

Ooo!

Boo! Boo!

Drawing coffee from a stone floor

I sat at my desk late Friday night and shook my head as I read this week's Student Centre ad. "Blood Donor Clinic in the Meeting Place," the ad read.

Life at the Centre

BY ROBERT PRICE

"Yeah, but what's happening in the Student Centre?" I asked Duncan.

I held up the ad for him to read. "Nothing," he said. "It's just as well that they advertise the Meeting Place blood clinic in the Student Centre ad – they won't get any blood here. It's stone, cold, dead."

"This place doesn't have a pulse." "But it's supposed to be the 'heart of the campus' isn't it?"

"If that's true, The Medium must be the heart worms," I said and sipped my coffee.

Mark entered the office wearing a hat that read 'Peckers.'

"Hey, pecker. What's the story?" I asked.

"The TAs are striking," he replied. "The university is going to let TAs walk, but they're building a mighty fine ice rink on King's College Circle. It's shaped like a donut. I guess it symbolizes how much they are willing to give the TAs."

Mark looked at the vent in the ceiling. "Why the hell is it so cold in here?"

"Y2K," I replied.

We all laughed. Y2K had nothing to do with it – all the ugly concrete and glass is Y2K compatible. The simple fact is that our office is damn cold. Our office is as cold as a dungeon and our darkroom is like a meat locker. Cold air pours in from an open vent leading directly from the outside. Soon there will be icicles hanging from the vent. Are they trying to kill us? This place is like a corpse. But it couldn't be a corpse – to be a corpse it must have first been alive.

Actually, the Student Centre would have been the perfect vantage point for New Year's Eve, had the apocalypse come. The Student Centre has large windows, well stocked vending machines, and lots of standing space. The only problems are that the water in our darkroom is yellow and burns skin – B.Y.O.W. – and the rip-off vending machines charge \$1.50 for a bargain size Snickers. Student Centre Snickers really, really satisfy, whether you want them to or not.

We took our black Colombian Spressos to the fireplace lounge to talk.

Over the break, workers painted the presentation room walls white and the info desk dark blue. Things are starting to look better. We entered the fireplace lounge like we entered a set from the original Star Trek television show. The imaginary door *ssshhed* closed behind us. We sat on the uncomfortable couches.

"You know, guys," I said, licked the delicious coffee-chocolate froth from my mouth, and bit into a goodie, "over the break we cleaned the office. We found lost advertisements, lost run sheets, lost phone books, lost CDs, lost pornography, lost research, and lost astrology texts. The year's started again, we're working on the first issue, and the office is already a mess again. Pretty soon students will course through the halls of the South Building. Protesting TAs and lines of cars will clog the major arteries leading to Erindale. Clubs will fill the white cells in the Student Centre. The whole building will beat with life..."

"Robert," Mark interjected, "enough with the sentimental metaphors, goddamit. You're ruining my capooch. Can't you just enjoy your coffee?"

"You're right," I said, and laughed. I smiled at my coffee and whispered, "Everything's okay."

Letters needed.
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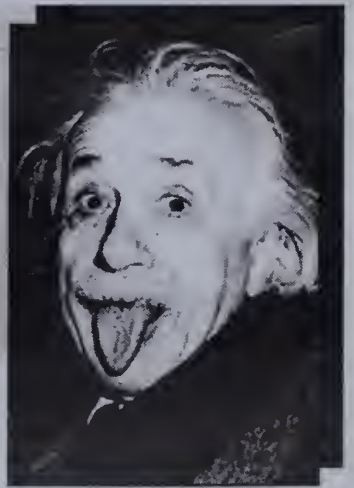
For Scarborough Campus call
Scarborough Snow Hotline:
(416) 287-7026

A decision to cancel classes or to close the University will only be taken under the most severe weather conditions.

TWENTY CENTURIES of Useless Inventions

BY JENNIFER MATOTEK

Earth: The twenty-first century. Our darling little planet has survived nearly twenty centuries of use, abuse, death, regrowth, and invention. Inventions are things devised through human effort, often resulting from the bringing together of existing technologies in a novel fashion. The creative activity known as "inventing" is often motivated in response to a specific human need, such as desire for convenience. Sometimes, invention occurs out of sheer serendipity. Discoveries may evolve out of the hands and minds of a single individual, or from the work of a collective. Many inventions are completely asinine. They are things that have no purpose, and are clearly the products of a warped mind, or absurd sense of humour. The following is a catalogue of some of the dumbest inventions from the past twenty centuries. Another twenty centuries of dumb inventions will surely follow them.

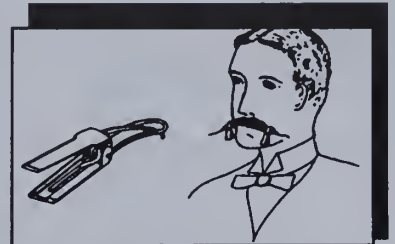


Albert Einstein: There was an inventor with beauty and brains. They don't make geniuses like they used to. Not to say that Stephen Hawking should be evaluated by his looks.



Charles Miller invented the first mustache guard in 1882, when big, bushy mustaches were in fashion. It was a fine idea at the time, but faded out of popularity as bushy mustaches grew out – or rather, were shaved out of fashion. The initial model consisted of a pair of clips, which would gather the hairs into neat little bundles. A later patent saw the introduction of a cloth guard, which covered the mustache area and was tied behind the ears. With the introduction of these models, it's simple to understand why big, bushy mustaches ceased to be in style. It's a shame these little babies didn't make a comeback in the 1970s, when huge mustaches and mutton chops made their hairy mark again. In the nineties, wannabe beatniks are content to dip their facial hair into a variety of food products, from soup to ice cream.

Mustache guards



Cloth or clip? The mustache guard had two variations, not unlike today's grocery bags. Which one would you choose?

Fire

When the first neanderthal learned to control the secret of fire, it was one small step for man, but one giant leap into the cesspool of civilization. Organized society has its pleasures, but there are an equal number of drawbacks to the lifestyle of humans. Now that we have things like electricity, we can control lighting in night conditions and room temperature. That means that our nasty, contemporary, capitalist society makes humans work at night, while people should be sleeping.

Without technological advancements, no one would have died in wars or gruesome tractor accidents. Maybe we'd still be pissing into earthen holes, emaciated from the ravages of weather, sickness, and time. But at least we'd get a full night's sleep, and we'd get to quit whatever we were doing once the sun went down, too, leaving us free to pursue a variety of dirty, dark, disease-ridden activities.

The printing press



These typefaces, (historically referred to as 'punches') were rejected by the Medium editorial board. They are now being used by The Varsity.

There are plenty of good newspapers, books, and other forms of print media in the world. But there's a lot of shit too. Crappy 'zines, and poetry books, and uninspiring literature (a la Chicken Soup for the Soul) that do nothing to stir the human mind, heart, or spirit, or contribute to society in any meaningful way. Some might argue that it's difficult to appreciate the good without accepting the bad, but in western popular culture, the crappy literature seems to outweigh the amount of good writing. Take college newspapers as an example. There are a few good ones out there, but in general, the bad papers outnumber the good. So be glad that your college newspaper doesn't suck as much as, say, the Varsity or the Sheridan Sun. Disclaimer: The preceding insult was meant as a joke, so don't get your panties in a knot because you're proud of the products the downtown campus and Sheridan College produce. At least the St. George Campus and Sheridan College actually put out a product, as compared to some campus radio stations. (Occasionally, it's preferable to receive a bad product than no product, especially when students pay \$18,000 a year to receive a product, and receiving nothing but dead air.)



Babies have to wear diapers because they can't control their bodily functions. Neither can birds. Bertha Dlugi decided to patent this precious piece of plastic in 1956. The diaper consisted of a piece of cloth or plastic, custom-fitted to the birdie's bottom, and was held up with strings and neck brace with a tiny clasp. It was supposed to prevent bird shit from landing on the floor.

There were a few problems with this invention that the average individual should be able to identify. No one wants to own a bird anymore, unless the bird talks, because dogs and cats are hairier and more fun to play with. Also, bird shit is a combination of both a liquid and a solid, and in general, liquids have a tendency to seep through solid materials such as cloth.

No human being enjoys wiping the shit off of a baby's bottom, so why should a human being enjoy the experience of wiping up a bird's ass? Clearly, the birdie feces will collect in the diaper at an extremely close proximity to the bird's feathery body, making it necessary for the bird owner to do a little down and dirty wiping after the removal of the diaper.

We'll forgive poor Bertha, because it was the nineteen-fifties, and she had such an unfortunate name. She also probably had way too much time on her hands. Modern western civilization should forgive her misguided attempt at financial gain.

Bird diapers

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CORNER



Another famous inventor, Leonardo Da Vinci. See any resemblance to Einstein?

Jellied food products. It would be difficult to imagine waking up one day and thinking, "Gee whiz. This meat and/or fruit sure would taste better if only it were packaged in a jellied form." Why would such an inventor assume that an entire society of people would enjoy a tin of jellied meat and/or fruit?

Some might argue that Spam is consumer-friendly because of its aura of convenience. Converting solid meat into a jellied form couldn't possibly be a convenient process for all those poor Spam factory workers, toiling all day just to create a solid into something more liquid, that is destined to be placed inside a "spamwich." Liquids can be yummy, and so can many solids. Sometimes yummy solids can be liquified to make an even yummier liquid (ie. chocolate). But jellied meat and/or fruit doesn't taste pleasant.

MORE USELESS INVENTIONS of the past twenty centuries



Spam (or any jellied
food product shaped
like a log)



If your car was this sweet, do you really think a little sliver of red metal strapped across the steering wheel would deter a car thief from stealing this hot mamma?

It's red. It's metal. It's unattractive. It effectively deterred thieves from breaking into your car until everyone else and their grandfather decided to purchase one. Now that it has been out on the market for a few years, it's highly probable that the majority of car thieves have discovered the secret to removing this formerly impenetrable device.

Perhaps that is a harsh evaluation of such a fine piece of protective equipment. If you were a car thief, and you had a choice between breaking into two identical cars, wouldn't you choose the car that didn't have the Club? However, if you were a smart car thief, who knew how to 'beat' the club, and you had a choice between breaking into some shitty little Fiat, or purloining a Mercedes Benz with an unattractive hunk of red metal strapped across the steering wheel, wouldn't you steal the Benz?

The Club

What was Mother Nature thinking? Aesthetically, the hair that grows in this shadowy nether-region looks incredibly stupid. Unless you have a hankering for that "natural" look, or have a fetish for Eastern European women, it's a cultural no-no in the West for females to sport armpit hair (unless you're Julia Roberts).

Logically, armpit hair should not exist. Elementary school teaches children that hair is designed to keep the human body warm, trapping body heat under a layer of flamboyant mammalian display. Human heads grow hair because the brain is an important organ, and should therefore be kept warm. But who the hell walks around complaining about having cold armpits? (Although some might argue that the reason we never have cold armpits is because we have so much hair there.)



Three cheers for European women! Who needs a pillow when you've got a whole pit full of that soft, fleecy hair?

Armpit hair



The pope is quite possibly the cutest Polish man ever conceived by God.

Religion

Sure, it makes people happy by granting them a universal sense of belonging by providing a comprehensive set of rules and rituals for good, clean living. Some religions even grant immortality.

Big whoop.

Think of all the conflict that it causes! We're not talking about children squabbling over tiddly-winks. Nearly every major conflict of the twentieth century has involved religion in some way or another, often serving as a substitute for humanity's desire for political conquest. The bottom line: Religion kills. (And occasionally saves.)

Mistake number one: Getting Dini Petty to extol the virtues of any product. Since when was the name of this practically unknown Canadian talk-show host synonymous with the mark of a quality product? Then again, it's not like the Queen of England is officially qualified to endorse wonderful products, but that doesn't stop her from putting her stamp of approval on Pears shampoo bottles.

One testimonial finds the self-raking kitty litter box to be soothing, and relaxing: "just like a Zen rock garden." This notion is hysterical. Since when is the experience of cleaning cat shit akin to the metaphysical, spiritual awakening Zen Buddhists experience while playing with a Zen rock garden? Even the most contemporary Zen rock gardens are not equipped with a self-raking mechanism, because the whole idea behind the raking is that inner-peace can be found by raking by yourself (without the assistance of Dini Petty). Cat shit ain't fun, or convenient or pretty, and it's a total crock that a company would market a product in a way that would make the activity of scooping it seem warm, attractive, or relaxing.



Dini Petty is evil. Just ask the Pope, in the lower left-hand corner of this page.

Self-cleaning kitty litter boxes

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

American Beauty tops off best films of 1999*American Beauty.*

BY RICHIE MEHTA

As the 1990s drew to a close, film critics and audiences began to compile their "century best" lists. Before we compile our own century lists, we've decided to give you the five best films of the 1999.

1. *American Beauty*: Stage director Sam Mendes' feature film debut, *American Beauty*, is without a doubt the year's finest film. It is Kevin Spacey's greatest leading performance, Alan Ball engaging and original script, Annette Bening's comeback, newcomers Thora Birch, Mena Suvari and Wes Bentley's breakthroughs, Thomas Newman's wonderful score, and director Sam Mendes' masterpiece. The most original and provocative film of this year, and among the better films in the last ten years, *American Beauty* doesn't introduce new ideas as much as it expresses them in such an engaging and challenging way. Not only is the film proof that Hollywood studios are becoming more sensible (although it was Steven Spielberg who got this film made), but it's an example of that which the film itself tries to identify: beauty.

2. *Run Lola Run*: As if each year must fill the quota of one incredible foreign film, *Run Lola Run* came out of obscurity to quickly capture praise and admiration from international audiences. A spiritual and literal journey through the streets of Berlin, the film follows red-haired Lola as she tries to save her boyfriend from mobsters in the allotted 20 minutes. Set against a techno beat, *Run Lola Run*'s pace is as frantic as the music, and never once lets up. More than simply a fascinating film, *Lola* leaves us with ideas about time, space, relationships, and our connection with fate. That's a near impossible feat to accomplish without being sentimental and hokey, but this German import does it brilliantly.

3. *Arlington Road*: What's still unbelievable to me is how well *The Sixth Sense* was received (rightly so), and how quickly *Arlington Road* was dismissed. With an ending that is more shocking than the former, *Arlington Road* follows Jeff Bridges as he attempts to uncover the secret of his new neighbours. Are they a normal suburban family? Or political extremists hell-bent on governmental destruction? Bridges' descent into an abyss of paranoia and fear is a disturbing and anxious experience for the audience, and Tim Robbins' turn as

*Toy Story 2.*

the mysterious neighbour is equally engaging. But like I said, it's the ending. Always the ending.

4. *Toy Story 2*: Pixar and Disney originally planned to release this film straight to video. Somebody talked some sense into them. The sequel of all sequels (think *Terminator 2* or *The Godfather Part II*), *Toy Story 2* is the perfect example of the perfect adventure comedy. Its jokes are so fast and funny you won't pick them up after one viewing, and its action is as harrowing and well-choreographed as an Indiana Jones film. And all of this is enveloped in a wonderful story — where Buzz Lightyear (voiced by Tim Allen) and the toy gang try to rescue Woody (Tom Hanks) from an evil toy dealer. I still laugh out loud just thinking of the jokes, and I haven't even touched on the special effects and animation. Needless to say, without the technology, *Toy Story 2* is how all movies should be made — using brains, wit, and heart, not just money.

5. *The Iron Giant*: Yes, the animated film. Yes, it's that good. Based on a Ted Hughes story, *The Iron Giant*

*Arlington Road.*

takes the viewer to small-town America in the 1950s, when the Western world resided under the cold war blanket of paranoia. National Security gave the government an excuse to do anything, and the common folks were led, zombie-like, into believing that the other side of the Earth was evil. Amongst all this, a young boy, Hogarth, discovers an iron giant who's come from space. Needless to say, he's not welcome on

*The Iron Giant.*

Earth. The film's level of maturity is the most pleasant surprise. Disney's animated films deal with issues in a relatively safe way — good will always prevail because that's what kids need to learn. *The Iron Giant*, in contrast, deals with issues of belonging, loneliness, fine art, and death in such a sensitive way — Hughes had written the story for his kids to help them deal

*Run Lola Run.*

with the death of their mother, Sylvia Plath — that kids and adults will find it touching and meaningful. Harry Connick Jr., Jennifer Aniston, Christopher McDonald, and John Mahoney all provide their vocal talents, but director Brad Bird (*The Simpsons*) is the genius behind this tale. I can't wait to see what he does next.

Honourable mentions: *The Insider*, *Being John Malkovich*, *Breakfast of Champions*, *Payback*, and *Star Wars* (I have to).

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Royal Alex heats up with *The Needfire*

After their fine performance at the Academy Awards a few years ago, *Riverdance* became an international phenomenon. Shows sold out all over the world, and the troupe spawned many copycat dance shows such as *Lord of the Dance*.

The Canadian version of this Celtic sensation, *The Needfire*,

returned last week to the Royal Alexandra Theatre.

An amalgamation of music, song, and traditional and modern dance, *The Needfire* begins with the story of an old Irish man explaining to a young boy the significance of *The Needfire*, an annual Irish tradition whereby local people gather to tell tales, sing songs, and dance through-

THEATRE/REVIEW

BY RICHIE MEHTA

out the night to "relight their inner fire."

The strength of the show lies in its tight choreography and often bizarre pieces — one number has the Highland Pipe brothers Rob and Sandy Campbell blasting their bag-

pipes to modern drumbeats and a cheesy laser show. However, there are too many solo vocal performances, and the narrative is milked for a lot more than it's worth.

With each incredible band number or dance set, *The Needfire* presents itself as a remarkable achievement of precision and grace. The tap dancing ensemble, lead by Darren Smith,

Chad Wolfe, Tiffany Fewster, and Fiona McCloskey, is the highlight of the show. Solo performances by these dance captains, a dance competition between men and women, or the show stopping finale, where the stage is filled with the perfect harmony of Celtic music and frantic movement, make parts of the show sensational.

However, the moments in between, such as Laura Smith's laboured rendition of "My Bonny," and the dragged-out narrative exchanges between Denny Doherty (as the old man John Michael), and Joe Dinicol (as young Ben), act as road blocks to the otherwise lightning-fast pace.

That's not to say all vocal moments are lost. Mary Jane Lamond (Ashley McIsaac's vocalist in "Sleepy Maggie") performs several numbers that don't slow the show down as much as they calm it. Besides, hearing someone sing Gaelic, an ancient and poetic language, is engaging in itself. Lamond's tranquil voice makes the songs much better.

Many will argue that a show such as *The Needfire* truly overshadows productions like *Riverdance*. The fact that the entire show is Canadian, promotes East coast culture, and showcases the best traditional dancing and singing talent of the country, is surely a bonus. However, in going to see this production, be prepared for some extremely low points contrasting the high ones.



Traditional Scottish performers are among the highlights of *The Needfire*, playing now at the Royal Alexandra theatre.

Limberger's book isn't cheese

BY ROBERT PRICE

Erindale graduates have diffused into many different fields — from art, to management, to education. Claude Limberger has diffused himself across two planes of existence.

Limberger, a UTM alumnus, author, practicing shaman, and time traveller, recently released his third book, *Afterworld Conversations*. Part mind-expanding manual, part soul-healing journal, the book is a record of Limberger's experiences in the afterworld.

"I believe that I've had contact with spirits. It's not what people think. Sometimes I'm scared, sometimes I panic, sometimes I'm like, this is cool," says a laughing Limberger over the phone.

Limberger says that his life took a turn towards the unbelievable soon after graduating from Erindale in the mid-eighties. After graduating, Limberger contracted a parasite that drilled into the walls of his stomach, rendering him allergic to everything he ate. Doctors misdiagnosed Limberger and proved unable to help him. After years of anguish, Limberger consulted a shaman who told him that he needed to cure himself. Limberger later discovered a way to purge the parasite and healed himself.

Then life became strange for the author.

Limberger used to take his daughter to the library at Dixie and Burnhamthorpe every other weekend. He would park beside a large oak tree at the edge of the large parking lot. One weekend, Limberger discovered a cemetery where the parking lot he had parked in for years used to be. The tombstones dated back to the 1800s.

"From a logical mind I go, 'I'm crazy,'" says Limberger. "I've lived around the corner from the library for ten years and not noticed the cemetery. How do you not notice a cemetery? People I talked to said that the cemetery was always there. I questioned my own sanity," Limberger laughs. "I concluded that I jumped a timeline."

Since his first 'twilight zone' experience, Limberger discovered that he had



previously lived in a time line where the parking lot resided. He lived until he was ninety, then died, then spent five years in the afterworld, then chose to return to life. Limberger's spirit re-entered the world in a different timeline, one where a cemetery covered the fields beside the public library.

"When I was in the afterworld I talked to a lot of spirits, I got answers to a lot of questions, I remembered the answers, and so I wrote them down. I had to write them down," *Afterworld Conversations* contains these spirits and these answers.

Limberger says that he chose to return to life. "I wanted to go back to that time [in the parking lot] to make change," says Limberger.

"I've changed my future," boasts Limberger. In his previous timeline, Limberger says that his wife left him. In this timeline, they are together.

Limberger remembers the events of his previous timeline. A war broke out in

Russia and went nuclear when one faction began to lose. Israel became involved, and the United States declared marshal law. These extraordinary events made an impression on Limberger.

"I have knowledge that can change the world. I'll risk the wrath of being called crazy to not have it happen. 'If I can change my life, why can't I change the history of the planet? Whether you think I have noble intentions or I'm an egomaniac, well, I'll leave that up to you,'" says Limberger.

Limberger is still in contact with spirits from the future. When he sleeps, his spirit leaves his body. He travels to other times and other bodies.

"I can't accept that I'm deluded or crazy, but I'll be the first to admit that I sound crazy," Limberger states calmly.

Afterworld Conversations and Limberger's other books are available at www.amazon.com, at all good bookstores, or by calling 1-877-850-2080.

Annie Smith strikes again

BY RICHIE MEHTA

Last week, UTM and art and history alumni announced the establishment of the Annie Smith Scholarship Fund.

Developed to support art and art history students, the scholarship fund was a result of the art and art history reunion held last year.

"After the 25th anniversary, the alumni decided to develop this fund to help students of the programme," says Mary Kosta of the Public Affairs, Alumni, and Development Office.

The amount of the fund is unset, but, according to Kosta, the award appears to be a success, as donations are being made every day. "The fundraising has been a success, and the university is matching some funds," says Kosta. "So far we have \$5,700."

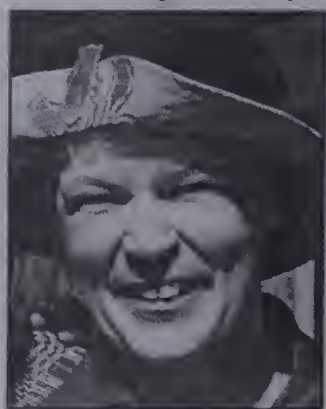
The award is an endowed scholarship, so a set amount of money is needed after which the interest will be given away every year.

The applications criteria of the scholarship are unclear. "Hugh Clarke of the awards office and Annie Smith (one of the programme's co-founders) herself will set

everything up," says Kosta.

Smith, who's been on a leave of absence for the past two years, still appears to be working miracles.

"I think it's good for the pro-



Annie Smith.

photo/Avril Loreti

gramme and the students because there are so many extra costs such as materials fees and ancillary fees," says art student Jessie Caryl. "I think it's incredible how devoted Annie Smith is to the programme, and how hard she's working to improve the quality of the programme. It's very inspiring."

Any students interested in writing for the Arts section, call Richie at 828-5260.
Happy New Year and welcome back!

East Indian sensation Cyrus showcases his talent

CD/REVIEWS

Stone Temple Pilots
No. 4
(Warner Music)



Just because they're back, doesn't mean they're the same...or as good. With their fourth album, cleverly titled *No. 4*, **Stone Temple Pilots** seem to have given up on the alternative sound we heard on their last two records, and return to the loud, heavy music featured on their debut, *Core*.

The first single is "Down," which has a catchy riff and chorus. Lead singer Scott Weiland belts out an Eddie Vedder impression that he's done in several other songs. Weiland, who has been in and out of jail over the past few years for drug-related offences, sobered up long enough to record the album after the other three band members gave up their *Talk Show* gig.

Although "Down" is a typical STP tune and a decent song on its own, "Heaven and Hot Rods," "Pruno," and "No Way Out" sound just like it, which brings down the whole album. "Sour Girl" – one of the softer songs – isn't bad, but it isn't nearly as good as the great songs the band used to pump out. "I Got You" is painful to listen to and "Sex and Violence" is total shit – it makes me want to rip my eyeballs out and jam them into my ears.

When listening to the album, it seems like it was a rush job – like it had to be recorded as quickly as possible before Weiland wound up in jail again. The album is excessively loud, consistently off-beat, and not worth what music stores will charge for it, unless it's cheaper than a pack of earplugs.

- Adam Giles

Gay Dad
Leisure Noise
(Warner)

Leisure Noise, the fourth album from the British pop quartet, **Gay Dad**, is the first to make any dent in sales in North America. And for good reason. **Gay Dad** is clearly one of the most talented bands to come out of the 90s Brit pop scene since the advent of Blur or the Stone Roses. If you're a fan of the Brit pop movement, and want to see where it's headed next, pick up a copy of *Leisure Noise*. The album's first single, "Joy," a spritely and sonorous tune, is picking up plenty of airplay on stations like 102.1, but is little heard elsewhere. **Gay Dad** (in addition to having a great name) have a unique, textured, delightfully poppy sound, and display a wide array of emotional pitches on the ten tracks of *Leisure Noise*.



The album is so enjoyable that you almost want it to be longer, so that it can fit into that category of "great little twelve song albums." Still, but the album's shorter length is preferable to the work of some other bands, who choose to stuff an album full of shitty songs just so that it can fit into the twelve-song CD format.

This one band that Canada should keep its eyes on, because their next album is sure to be a breakthrough hit.

There is artistic flair in the band's overlapping of sounds and textures at the beginning and end of **Gay Dad**'s tracks that is akin to the musical stylings of Radiohead. Essentially, the tone of **Gay Dad** is flavoured by a fun, silly, third-person narrator common to earlier Blur albums. This is combined with the musical sensibility and artistic sentiments of British bands like The Verve. This is not to say that **Gay Dad** doesn't have a unique sound, but it's obvious that their work is influenced by other contemporary musicians on the British pop scene. (One of the band's founding members was a music critic for many years, so it's natural that the band should reference a lot of British pop music.) Tracks like "Black Ghost" and "Jesus Christ" showcase **Gay Dad**'s softer side, while "To Earth with Love" exposes the band's talent for songwriting. Sadly, there are no lyric sheets included in the terrific graphic designs in the liner notes, so the listener must pay close attention to the words in order to absorb the poetry that is **Gay Dad**. They may have yet to make it big in North America with *Leisure Noise*, but this one band that Canada should keep its eyes on, because their next album is sure to be a breakthrough hit.

- Jennifer Matotek

Various Artists
Dogma soundtrack
(Warner)

Although the film should have received a wider release – and larger audience – Kevin Smith's *Dogma* managed to capture the exact mood that makes Smith's films so quirky and individual. Strangely, however, Smith decided to go for a very straightforward approach for the music.

With the compulsory **Alanis Morissette** track – she plays God in the film – "Still," the soundtrack begins on a very high note. **Morissette** captures an appropriately dark and traditional mood, with a prevailing East Indian influence in the song.

Composer **Howard Shore** takes over from there, with a fairly conventional score, which stands well on its own.

The music is almost **Danny Elfman**-esque in that it crosses the bizarre with the supernatural. This is familiar territory for **Shore**, whose previous scores include *Seven*, *The Game*, and *Existenz*.

The interluding choir is reminiscent of dark religious music (think **John Williams**' dark-side theme in *Star Wars Episode I*), and gives the music it's dark edge.

Even though a lot of music feels conventional, **Shore**'s score moves fast and has enough of a steady rhythm to sustain ones interest.

- Richie Mehta



Various Artists
Thicker Than Water soundtrack
(EMI)

A double CD soundtrack to the film *Thicker Than Water* may be overkill as

far as the film goes, but for fans of **Mack 10** and his **Hoo-Bangin'** label, these are two discs of pure heaven. Little new ground is broken, but a number of newer and lesser known artists make a rather strong appearance on this soundtrack.

Memphis Bleek, whose debut dropped this past summer, comes in on the first disc with "Live Life 2 Tha Fullest," a strong track with a funky beat typical of the work on his debut, and a pretty good representation of his solo work. **C.O.G.** also drop on the first disc, with rhymes that flow smoother and faster than much of what is being released in the late nineties.

Disc two brings in well-known artists like **MC Eiht** and **Mack 10** himself, but also mixes in work from artists outside the **Hoo-Bangin'** imprint, including Canada's own **Choclair**. Having just completed the most anticipated, and best-selling Canadian hip-hop album ever, **Choclair** comes on with *Flagrant*, a bouncy track with strong lyrical and vocal content. Disc two also contains work from **R&B** chanteuse **Soultré**, whose silky vocals won't be wrestling any accolades away from **Lauryn Hill**, but whose vocal style is definitely worth checking out.

The crowning jewel of this entire collection, however, has to be the first new Westside Connection track released in years. Opening the first disc, "Let It Reign" starts off the *Thicker Than Water* soundtrack with a jolt. Smooth production, bouncy vocals, and a melding of lyricists that works much more smoothly than many other groups recording today.

- Scott Arnold

As he bridges the music of his Indian homeland with the sounds of contemporary pop/rock, local artist **Cyrus Singh**'s debut album, *Sun to Star*, features an extraordinary palette of sounds full of energy, charm and lively melody.

Responsible for both the vocals and songwriting on *Sun to Star*, **Cyrus** presents a unique voice, strong musicianship, and a talent for composition. Many of his songs sound, and feel, like autobiographical anecdotes, and the soothing quality of *Sun to Star* makes it easy to sing along, bang a drum, or even dance.

Cyrus interjects a bit of his own Asian flavour through his arrangements, often combining foreign instruments like the tabla with his own acoustic guitar. This type of fusion, though not extremely popular, brings out a unique and evocative instrumental harmony. His voice, both confident and apologetic, moves from song to song with authority and never sounds strained or overpowered by the music.

The songs themselves are full of emotion and energy – **Cyrus** sounds like **Bob Marley** yearning on the reggae infused *If I could Fall Again*, while he evokes the gentle pathos of a lullaby on the album closer, *Four hours to Rama*.

Part poet, part musician and complete artist, **Cyrus** combines a passion for creativity with an equally passionate devotion to his craft. The overall result is a musical tapestry that draws on a diverse range of popular music, from reggae to pop to rock, and introduces us to the vibrant new sound of **Cyrus**.

- Cyrus Irani



Various Artists
Splendor soundtrack
(EMI)

Splendor, the soundtrack to **Gregg Araki**'s latest film, resembles his previous two soundtracks in its use of British pop and odd electronic music. The difference between this and his soundtrack for the equally quirky *Nowhere* is that on *Splendor*, the techno and brit pop are combined with different electronic artists remixing music of the past 10 to 15 years.

Opening the album is the bouncy **Fatboy Slim** with "Sho' Nuff," a "Big Beat" track in the vein of his earlier hit, "Rockafeller Skank." Combining heavy percussion with rhythmic beats, **Norman Cook** (the brain behind **Fatboy Slim**) has managed to fuse the best elements of dance with the best elements of pop.

Other than the great **Micronauts** song, the mediocre edit of the **Chemical Brothers**' "Electrobank" and the passable **Armand Van Helden** track "Flowerz," the rest of the soundtrack for *Splendor* contains the aforementioned mix of Brit pop and techno.

While all the tracks are great

(especially for fans of both these genres), the **Mad Professor** remix of **Chapterhouse**'s "Mesmerise" and the **James Lavelle** remix of **Hurricane #1**'s "Only The Strongest Will Survive" both deserve special note due to their odd combinations of big names within both genres who have gone underappreciated for far too long. The prior is a housey mix of the **Chapterhouse** track from the man responsible for the remixes of **Massive Attack**'s *Protection* album, and this track does justice to the talents of both parties.

Hurricane #1 is even less recognized, and yet deserves far more credit. With ex-Ride guitarist (now **Oasis** bassist) **Andy Bell**, **Hurricane #1** contains much of the guitar flair found in **Bell**'s previous project. **Lavelle** (head of **Mo Wax** records and half of the **UNKLE** project released last year) does a great job of completely restructuring "Only The Strongest..." while still maintaining enough of the flair of the original to appease both dance and pop fans alike.

All in all, **Araki**'s soundtrack once again scores big, while his movie (as is also the standard) does not. As usual, his films make for some great listening.

- Scott Arnold

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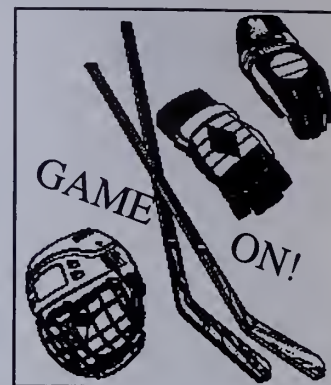
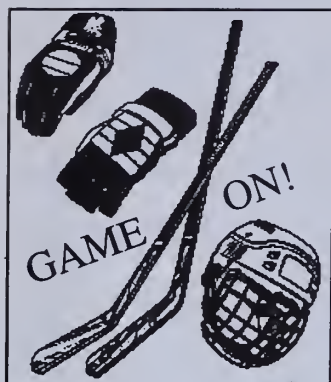
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2000 Ball Hockey Preview



Men's league returns, but UTM's most popular sport arrives with new rules, a new setup, and only 16 teams

Beware of the man in stripes!

BY CHRIS CARRABS
BALL HOCKEY HEAD REFEREE

Erindale men's ball hockey is returning after a one-year leave of absence. With new and improved rules, it looks to become the permanent cornerstone of intramural sports for years to come. With the new fair play code and new rules, returning players and rookies alike must be wary of the man in stripes. All officials for the upcoming season have been notified of the need to cut down on violent behaviour and allow for a more tolerant atmosphere. Officials will not allow any games to get out of hand, and will therefore call penalties in all situations in order to keep the game clean. Officials will be evaluated on a weekly basis, and this should keep them in line. The better officials will be given more games based on their ability to do the job effectively.

As well, under the new fair play code, spectators, officials, and all players are subject to punishment. Officials will not think twice about removing rowdy fans. Players and teams will be given caps on penalty minutes for the coming season. Everyone should read and understand the rules so that Erindale can keep the ball hockey tradition going far into the new millennium.

Men's division I

The Contenders:

Fury

This team has only three returning members from the championship team of two years ago, namely brothers Chris and John Carrabs, as well as Mario Mallozzi. Their backbone remains in goal with Johnny Carrabs, who can single-handedly win games himself. The chemistry of this team is uncertain, as free agent signings of Neal Carley and Dave Curran must gel with the likes of the new breed, such as Bruce Worthington



file photo

...and two cohorts of students that haven't seen it yet. Will the league be as popular as it used to be?



Men's ball hockey is back, but with less than half the teams there were two years ago... file photo

(possible Calder trophy candidate), in order to keep Fury's name on the trophy.

Turnovers

This team consists mainly of division-one ice hockey players, including former Hellfish backstopper Mark Riopel. Riopel (Vezina trophy candidate), along with the deadly Murphy brothers, Chris and Steve, could produce a series of offensive and defensive breakouts. P.S. The Neebovich bug is alive!

Untouchables

The name that has been heard around the world. Can this team of chokers, rather underachievers finally get over the top and realize all their potential? Led by the uncanny offensive ability of Mandeep Gill, er, Sergei Berezin (what do you mean I have to pass?) and the veteran leadership of captain Paul Dimtsis, the Untouchables remain a scary team to play. Sheraz Mahmood must come through in the clutch in goal and free agent signing John Daniel must not turn into a

high priced bust (i.e. Valeri Kamensky) Without the playoffs, those gorgeous jerseys will go to waste - remember shades of sensations!

The fight for the final playoff spot:

Leafs

Here is a team with a rather large question mark in goal, but offense should not be a problem. Rajwinder Sandhu is a possible league MVP. Can the Sigsbee connection Panglia to Sohail reappear. Whatever happened to Sigsbee? The muscle comes from the likes of Massimo Giannobile and Parmjit Singh, but remember: Did Bob Clarke win the Stanley Cup with the Legion of Doom and Hextall and Vanbiesbrouck?

Bristol U

Using the name that is associated with an unbeatable basketball team, Zain Fancy has formed a team with a nucleus of former Hawks finalists. Led by veterans Mike Arage, Gary Desouza and Bryan Foo (who kicked who?), they could make some noise. The question mark remains in goal, as it doesn't look like Steve Ghose will be putting up Curtis Joseph numbers. There was Jim Carey, where is he now? The ghost of Zuhair Fancy will watch over them (is this a good thing?) as alumni are unable to participate. One Fancy in a league is enough. Watch your head.

Better luck next year:

Sloppy Joe's

Another team that is hard to figure out. Co-captains P.J. Varganyi and Jan Maw are great ice hockey players, but can they come

through in the narrow confines of the gym? Rookie goalie Dave Medeiros and DOA alumni Jeff Williams will split the goaltending duties, while other DOA players Kevin Lee (107 mph) and up-and-coming Matt Daley must have breakthrough years to force a playoff spot. Who is this one-year wonder Hale?

Goodfellas

In moving to the big time, this team hopes that they are not trigger-happy like Joe Pesci. Captain Marco Roberto looks to have produced a squad of relative unknowns at press time, which should create upset possibilities. Watch out Untouchables. To play in the big time, the Goodfellas' offense, defence, and goaltender must be strong. Former Venom backstopper Sheldon Martin, who impressed in the '98 skills competition, is rumoured to move in as guard of the twine tent. All of these question marks will soon find answers.

Patriots

Captain Damon Conrad has broken his ties and starts out fresh. This could pose a problem in division one. Hopefully, Conrad doesn't have the luck of another former Patriot, Pete Carroll, and not make the playoffs. This team of unknowns will only go as far as rookie netminder Lee Hulse-Smith will take them. Hulse-Smith was instrumental in UTM's championship in the fall interfaculty ball hockey tournament.

Men's division II

Dynamo

Dynamo is a young, rookie team, led by Shujjat Alikhan, the brother of former Fury all-star Shabaz Alikhan. Alikhan appears to have something in common with his brother: a massive ego. Alikhan claims that he is the scoring leader in an Oakville Hall Hockey League. The authenticity of this league has not yet been confirmed at press time. Other players to watch for are defenceman Devinder Singh, who is a bit crazy, and Petr Tuvera, whose style of play is reportedly very similar to that of Jaromir Jagr. Tuvera is also supposedly, "a bit nuts." Alikhan feels that although they are a new team playing together for the first time, "when you've got so much talent, losing seems like a joke," and adds, "defence is solid, goalie is solid, offence really kicks ass. We are your division two champs this year, God bless UTM hockey." There is some concern on this team that if Shujjat is anything like his brother temper-wise, look for his team to be ejected from the league after four games. Let's hope Alikhan and his boys can back up his words, or they'll

The sociology of Erindale's ball hockey violence

Why UTM's favorite sport is plagued by overly aggressive play

BY ADAM GILES

The men's intramural ball hockey league has filled Erindale campus with a unique spirit and a sense of community for the past two decades. The EBHL quickly became the heart of this school and it brought healthy competitiveness and enjoyment to those who participated. But unfortunately, it also brought serious problems of violence and racial taunts. Administrators were forced to change rules, make penalties harsher, suspend the league in 1998, and cancel the league altogether last year. So why do seemingly intelligent university students continue to play violently and verbally abuse each other when they know these actions will cost them their favorite sport?

Causes of violence

"The bottom line is that males see their masculinity under challenge and they are trying to show their supremacy by overpowering their opponents as they try to win the game. If the goal is to dominate at any cost, then violence is used to demonstrate masculine superiority," says Erindale sociology professor Walter Podilchak.

"It is my understanding that violence occurs under ethnic groups," adds Podilchak. "Sport reflects social tensions. Players will trash-talk and put others down to get their own motivation up and they will fight to defend, in a militaristic manner, the integrity of their ethnic group. It depends how teams are organized. If they're organized around ethnic divisions, then the teams are not only sports teams; they represent different ethnic groups. Exhibiting racism creates a sense of superiority."

Podilchak says that comparing the men's and women's ball hockey leagues may help to show the true causes of violence. "If the women's teams are as ethnically organized as men and there is less or no violence, then the violence we see in the men's league can be identified as a masculinity issue. Females don't have the same social pressures."

Barry Green, another sociology professor at Erindale, adds that males are taught to be tough, strong, competitive, and aggressive. And if they aren't tough, strong, competitive, and aggressive, they are considered outcasts. "It's okay for a girl to act like a guy, we have a name for it: she's a tomboy - it's positive. But if a guy acts like a girl, it isn't okay; he's a sissy - it's negative."

Green says violence in ball hockey could also result from using the sport as an outlet for aggression. "We live in a world of political correctness, so maybe (ball hockey) is used as an outlet for doing things that you can't do in other situations," says Green. "If violence in ball hockey is socially acceptable, then of course people will use it as an outlet. But the environment makes these things happen and people love watching it and some love doing it."

Although it was first thought that using sport as an outlet for aggression would reduce violence outside of sport, Green says studies show

that it actually increases the level of violence outside of sport.

Podilchak says that when someone participates in group sports, like ball hockey, the group can influence their normal behavior. "There is pressure for group members to conform to what their group is doing. And in sports, players push their physical and emotional limits. This intensity makes them behave differently than they normally would," he says.

"Collective behavior is different than individual behavior because the group becomes more like a person and if you get enough momentum going, it intensifies behaviors that a person wouldn't normally do and the crowd can become really scary," says Green.

According to Green, ball hockey violence could stem from rivalries and unequal skill levels between teams and also by role modeling. "If teams are mismatched, the losing one will become more desperate and become more violent," he says. "And young athletes will watch nasty sports and model themselves after the athletes they see on TV."

Reducing violence

Although these negative parts of competitive sport are the parts that

get the most attention, Podilchak says sport is also an important vehicle for socializing and for social conversation and if teams don't socialize with each other outside of the game, there will be more social tension. Therefore, socializing the teams can decrease hostility between them, Podilchak says. "Something like a monthly pub party for all the ball hockey players would socialize the players, reduce tension, and reduce violence," he says.

Podilchak also says that if more



teams were composed of mixed cultures he would expect there to be less violence and verbal abuse in the league. "If teams were randomly drawn so that different people from



Erindale ball hockey players use aggressive and violent play to physically dominate their opponents and demonstrate their masculine superiority.

teams, you probably wouldn't see as many fans because there is no longer a single ethnic group to support on each team."

Is violence just part of the game?

"It's a wonderful goal to try to get the violence out of the sport but (ball hockey) has a tradition of vio-

sociology continued on page 16

meeting rooms restaurant lounge
convenience store t.v. room
arcade pub patio

and more in your new

Student Centre

Welcome back!

upcoming events:

Wicked Wednesday - Jan. 12

Blue Monday - Jan. 17

Blood Donor Clinic - Jan. 19, 20
(meeting place)

SC

Six women teams prepare for ball hockey battle

BY SAVIA SOUZA-MARQUES AND
CHANDRA GILBERT

Flaming Paralyzers

What do you get when you cross a couple of Flaming Moes with a few Paralyzers? A pretty bad hangover and one mean team! As both teams lost players due to graduation, a merger seemed the most likely solution. Aggressive with the ball and extremely fast, this team is stacked with a talented roster of stick handlers. (Wannabe Cassie Campbell) Erin Laporte and Caterina DiCiano will help the offence with their hockey finesse. Newcomer (to ball hockey but not sports) Hazlon Schapmyer will provide an extra surge of offence. A strong defensive performance will be expected from Sarah Jantzi and newcomer Carolyn Nokes. "Bond Girls, we're coming after you!" warned captain Debbie Medeiros.

As suggested by the name, the Flaming Moes and Paralyzers of yesteryear merged and should pose a threat to the Bond Girls. Players like Erin Laporte, Erin Sneek, Debbie Medeiros, and Cat Dizenzo should carry the team to a playoff position. Look out for this team as may take the championship as the Flaming Moes kept the championship close last year.

Beautiful Losers

This team's name is said to have been inspired by Leonard Cohen's book, *Beautiful Losers*. This is the third incarnation of the

team's name and will hopefully prove lucky. Star forward, Keira Stockdale, who has been with the team since her first year, is expected to make a great offensive effort. Becky Desroches is welcomed back to the team after taking a leave for training. Though the goalie situation has yet to be resolved, a strong effort will be made by whoever has the honour of filling the position. "We're pretty excited about playing together as a team again this year and we're confident that all our training will pay off," said captain Katherine Klauck. This small but tight team, high in spirits (catch them at the pub Thursday nights), will work on being more aggressive and playing more offensively.

This year, the Beautiful Losers looked for new blood to improve their roster and with the addition of Sarah Govier and the return of a few other players, they increased their chances of a win this season. The team's best performance last year was a tie, so the Beautiful Losers will look for a win in their opening game to break the slump. The loss of goalie Krista McMillan may prove a problem if a girl doesn't step in to take her place full-time.

Bond Girls

With roughly the same players from last year along with three new rookie players the Bond Girls are out to defend their title. Last year the team remained undefeated throughout the entire season and post season. "I know that some of the teams are really going to be tough so we just have to play smart, and work together as a team," said Miel



With only six women's teams, the top four advance to the playoffs. Should be a good battle. file photo

McGerrigle. "And everyone really worked well together, the three new players are expected to fit in really well." All-star ice hockey player Kim 'Slap-shot' Shapcott will return and be a pain in the ass to any opponents who get in her way. Gina Rajack, the top scorer last year, will try to make the season more interesting, promising to score all her goals with her eyes closed. Returning players Kerri Wilson and Adaora Ogbue will provide a solid defence. With four players working at the Fit Stop and one working upstairs at athletics, this team definitely knows its way around the gym.

Last year's champions look to maintain their dominance over the league as a few additions were made to increase the team's size. With the key players, Kim Shapcott and Gina Rajack, the Bond Girls are expected to place in the top of the league. The only concerns for the Bond Girls lie with the playing status of goalie Miel McGerrigle as training for her Olympic berth may interfere with her ability to play this season.

Little Devils

This team went all out on their recruitment drive to draft players from first year to third year to fill out the vacant positions on their team. Another defensive-minded team, they expect to place in the top three. "We're hoping to be better this year and regain our championship title under our former name Vicious Vibe," said Chandra Gilbert. Forward Theresa Sargeson is expected to score consistently, while defence-woman Shannon Goodwin will guard the zone in front of the net. Kelly Gilbert will also assume her defensive position and try to avoid knocking heads with her opponents. With four ice hockey players on the team, and four returning players from last year, the team will need to combine the two groups in order to achieve success.

With only a handful of returning players from last season, the Little Devils looked to rebuild. With several additions of first-year players, the Little Devils hope to gel quickly and retain their spot in the middle of the league. Without last year's goalie, the Devils have yet to decide who will fill that role. Many of the additions to the team are first-year players but they will cause a stir in the league due to their athletic ability.

Rogues

Beware all takers! The Rogues are back in town! Consisting of players who range from five-year veterans (don't these people ever leave?) to a first-year rookie, and every year in between, it will be interesting to see if the team can get some chemistry going. They hope to utilize their strong defensive units and display their unique trademarked ball blocking style (reminiscent of their field hockey glory days). If Sue 'Head Bang'r' Pfeiffer can keep her head on her shoulders then it should be no problem for her to get her stick on the ball and into the opponent's net. Also part of the returning offensive cavalry will be Khush Amaria, Sandra Buzziol, Alison Fernandes, and Nathalie Poupart. Ice hockey player and all-star defencewoman Emily Pond will once again guard the zone alongside the end-to-end rushes of Nadia Finley. "We're looking forward to the season. This one's going to be the one!" said captain Savia Souza-Marques.

Found in the middle of the pack last year, the Rogues look to increase their standing in the league with a larger team. Plagued with injuries to Sue Pfeiffer and lack of player commitment last year, the Rogues added players to solve this problem and hope to win the majority of their games. This team has great spirit and teamwork, so they should give any team a challenge.

Vacant Rage

Last year's rookie team is back. This team who named themselves according to their lack of skill, have a strong spirit. Although the team has lost a few key players, the majority of the team is back to win. The team's best forwards, Patti McCarragher and Nikki Parent, are expected to shine. Goalie Amanda Skirving will hold the fort between the pipes. "We're very enthusiastic and excited about the new season," captain Jessica Franzen said. The team focussed on drafting but didn't get around to training. Many defencewomen have departed, but the rest will try to keep the ball out of their zone. Their playing style is unstructured (maybe the Fair Play Guide and rulebook can help) but there's no time for them to hold practices. Though they have lost their fabulous coach from last year, they will make do with what the cat dragged in this year.

As a team in its second year, the Rage is looking to improve on its rookie season. With most of the players returning, the Rage should have a better season. One challenge for the Rage may be the new high-sticking rule, where any sticks in the air result in an automatic penalty. If this team can cut down on the penalties, they have a good chance of improving on last year's season.



Catch all the women's ball hockey action Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. file photo

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT - w/ LIVE BAND/DJ COMBO ... BOTH LOCATIONS
SUNDAY RETRO NIGHT w/ DJ ... Dick's GRILLE & VINE Co.- OAKVILLE

study hard, party hard ... have a great year!

Division II teams prepare for tough competition

continued from page 12

soon find out that all talk and no action would give them the same label as the Untouchables, the perennial choke team of the 90's and for the new millennium.

BMF

BMF looks to be the early favourite to claim the division two title. BMF appears to be very different this year, as they only have three returning players. Co-captains Jason Caine and Albert Poon, along with Eddy Bavington, will provide the leadership for this team. BMF was very busy during the off-season, signing former ICP stars Joe Bakewell and Jay Zwolak. Bakewell will start between the pipes, while Zwolak should be one of the top power-forwards in division two.

Another very important addition is the signing of IHL all-star Andrew Corbett. Corbett is probably the most underrated forward in the entire league, and will be able to have his way with division two goalies. Rumours swirl that a few division one teams coveted Corbett but couldn't find him. BMF also feels that, "the Hitmen have folded out of fear of a BMF-Hitmen rivalry." If these rumours are true, everyone can breathe a sigh of relief, as the Hitmen can no longer disrespect the name of EBHL's former dominating team.

HBFT

The Hudson Bay Fur Traders: Let's hope this team's jerseys aren't as bad as their name. Team Captain Chris Nash is another division two captain with a huge ego, as he feels that he is "a playmaker comparable to the great one, making passes like he has eyes in the back of his head." Goaltender Tommy D is supposedly solid, as is Justin Smith, who is supposed to be a goalie's nightmare. Look out for the point shot of Miek Tarnowycz, who is supposed to be a true sniper. Nash feels that his team should make it to the finals, "based purely on cockiness." Nash added, "When we win the division two championship, we will gracefully challenge the A division champs to a game just for fun."

Early predictions have HBFT not making the playoffs.

HoLoHo

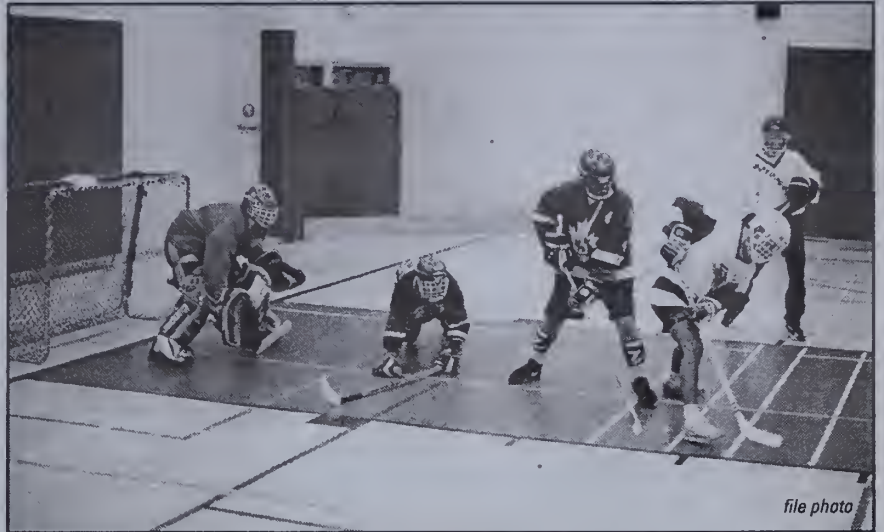
The Holohos are relatively new to UTM ball hockey, coming out of the woodwork as a combination of hard-nosed members of the UTM Rowing Team and assorted talents. They include some members of the '97-'98 rookie club in division two known as "The Killer Sieves," such as five-goal-game sensation Darren Mcleod and all-star rookie goalie, turned defenceman, Yasin Ozturk. The talent between the pipes is now freshman netminder Kevin "the Stoner" Spence, who should be a high for the team. With both new young talent and experience in the supporting cast of Adam Giles, Ryan Dunn, and others, the team should be a contender. Starting centre Scott Baker is also on the team. The "Hos" look to surprise, and quite possibly, blow the competition away.

Fierce

This team is made up of athletic players of good size, and they can play a skilled and tough game. Their leadership will come from senior players like Sam Bawa, Bal Gill, Ravi Dave, and Roj Koppaithara. Tough play is expected from Umar Muhammad and Pierre Bejjani, while youngsters Abe Iqbal, Rav Chahal, and Sayeed Raza will supply some energy. On paper, this team looks good because everyone has hockey experience and they average about 6 feet, 180lbs. However, a source of concern for Fierce is their lack of experience playing together and their unfamiliarity with rookie goalie Kevin Ali. Still, if Ali plays well and Fierce gels quickly as a unit, this team could go a long way.

Brahma Bulls

Although the Bulls are a first-year team, optimists think they can turn some heads in the division two league and possibly qualify for a playoff berth. The Bulls have quite a



file photo

Stiff competition: Both division one and two have eight teams with players who all want the title...

few guys who played two years ago and know what the grind of a 40-minute EBHL game is like - Jackson Poon, Chris Shim and Farooq Hamed, to name a few. The Bulls look to play a smart, unselfish game, which should help keep the score close, even against the stronger division two teams. As we have seen in the NHL, it is often the consistent effort, rather than flashy plays, that win games - a style of play that the Bulls hope to pull off. If the team wins, the success probably won't come on the back of one player; it will be a team effort, with balanced scoring and solid defensive play.

Free Agents

An expansion team can be a sleeper team. That's what the Free Agents team has the potential to be. A total of 12 players are on this team, including two goalies and 10 forwards. A mix of experienced first year players, flexible forwards and defencemen, and two good goalies give the free agents a foundation for a contender. There may be a bit of

trouble in the beginning, since no one really knows anyone else yet, but with some people on the team rising to take a leadership role and some experimentation with lines, the Free Agents can settle these problems. So don't underestimate this team due to a lack of chemistry. Their unknown status could actually be an advantage, since teams will have a hard time scouting.

PBU

Not much is known about the PlayBoyzUnited, but don't eliminate them from contention quite yet. Like the Free Agents, PBU's secret roster could actually work to their advantage because other teams may take them too lightly - a mistake that every team should consciously avoid. After the first few games, other division two teams will have a better idea of how good this team is. PBU takes on HoLoHo on Thursday in their first game.

see this week's schedule on page 16

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2000 ball hockey preview, especially: Zain Fancy, Savia Souza-Marques, Chandra Gilbert, Chris Carrabs, Yasin Ozturk, Professor Barry Green, and Professor Walter Podilchak.



...but only the top four teams in each division will make the playoffs.

file photo

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United Ball Hockey Association

Sociology of violence

continued from page 13

lence, and part of it, unfortunately, is violence as a strategic move to over-power opponents," says Podilchak. "So you can't take out violence per se because if it's used as a means of achieving superiority, it's not going away. It doesn't matter what the penalties for violence are, it will still be used because teams want to win - it's like social survival."

Green says, "violence isn't logical or rational, so it doesn't fit with a logical and rational university. I think the university has good reason not to allow it. But is it something that can really be eliminated? People would be bored with baseball if it weren't for the food and beer, but they watch sports like hockey and football because it's like two armies going at each other. So then what we have in ball hockey here is nice suburban people who want to kill each other."

This week in ball hockey

Monday Jan. 10:
Women - Little Devils vs. Rogues @8am

Div. I - Untouchable's vs. Goodfella's @1pm

Tuesday Jan. 11:
Women - Bond Gilrs vs. Vacant Rage @8am
Div. II - HBFT vs. BMF @10am
Div. I - Turnover's vs. Leafs @11am
Div. I - Sloppy Joe's vs. Fury @12pm
Div. I - Bristol U vs. Patriots @1pm

Thursday Jan. 13:
Div. II - PBU vs. HoLoHo @10am
Div. II - Dynamo vs. Fierce @2pm

Ball hockey writers wanted!



If you're at the game, you might as well write something about it. Call Adam @ 828-5260.

UTM women's division I v-ball completes championship sweep

Women defeat number one ranked PT/OT in two games

BY JASON MONJES

In early December, UTM played PT/OT for the final championship of the twentieth century in women's volleyball. It was a tough battle throughout as PT/OT was the number one ranked team, while UTM was ranked number three.

The first game was filled with great defense and offense. UTM played perhaps its best game. The starters had nine digs, led by Maria Papasodaro. Although they made a few hitting errors early in the game, UTM adjusted and held strong at the net led by Barb Sanders with two kills. Stephanie DeLorenzo played her usual strong game as well, leading the team on the court with two kills. Inez Martincevic

filled in at the other power position and contributed with one kill, two aces, and two digs. This was definitely her best game of the season. April Juneau played out of position at middle blocker, but she played as if she was on the Canadian National Team, leading with two big blocks. The game went 25-21 for UTM. PT/OT played 16 players all throughout while running a 6-2 offense, which was very unorthodox but effective. They contributed too many errors, costing them the game.

The second game was as good as the first, filled with great defense and hitting by both teams. DeLorenzo once again led the team with four kills, three aces, and two digs. Papasodaro hit the ball so hard she ended up scoring a facial on PT/OT's players. Natasha Sortiriu came in and provided strong middle blocking and hitting, gaining two hits and an ace. Juneau played strong defensively with three digs. Sanders contributed two kills and two blocks as well as four digs. The final score was 25-23

UTM. Give PT/OT credit for never giving up. They definitely proved why they were ranked number one. As for UTM, it marks perhaps the first time in history that UTM women swept the championships in both divisions one and two. It was perhaps fitting for coach Jason Monjes, who stepped down, but not without ending it on a strong note, winning his first two championships as a coach at UTM.

Here is the team's profile and goals for next season:

Barb Sanders - 5'9", second-year, middle blocker. Best blocker on the team. Strong middle hitter, improved a lot since last year. Needs to work on soft landing and pounding the ball more. Most improved player.

Michele Leung - 5'7", third-year, outside hitter. Played well when put into the game. Needs to play consistent offensively and to hit the ball hard. Strong blocker.

Lina Al-Bargash - 5'9", third-year, middle blocker. Strong hitting and tough blocking at the net along with great passing. Needs to work on going up and hitting every ball down hard. Great leadership.

Maria Papasodaro - 5'7", first-year, setter/right side. Good hands, good passing, defensive, hitting and blocking skills. Needs to work on setting consistently to become better as a starter at setter in the future. Definitely the rookie of the year as well as best server.

Stephanie DeLorenzo - 5'7", third-year, outside hitter. Definitely an MVP player. The best outside hitter at UTM, without a doubt. Incredible offense, defense, and serving. Led the team in kills. Needs to work on controlling the team on the court as a leader and blocking.

April Juneau - 5'6", third-year, outside hitter. Great outside hitting, consistent throughout the whole year. Needs to work on being more consistent on passing and hustling on tips. Could be a great leader in the future.

Julie Mirkovic - 5'7", second-year, outside hitter. Good power and blocking. Needs to work on consistent hitting as well as passing. A definite asset to the team.

Inez Martincevic - 5'6", second-year, outside hitter. Great hustle, good defense, and a great team player. Needs to work on hitting the ball strong from the outside and blocking. Possibly the team's best defensive player.

Natasha Sortiriu - 5'8", second-year, middle blocker. Good block and hitting up at the net. Needs to work on defensive skills, passing, and crunching the ball in becoming a consistent force in the middle.

Menly Ongko - 5'4", fourth-year, setter/right side. Veteran team leader. Good defensive as well as consistent setting. Needs to be more outspoken and to hit the ball harder.

Marla Adams - 5'5", fourth-year, setter/right side. Another veteran team leader. Great defensive and setting as smooth as butter. Needs to improve on hitting the ball down. The MVP of the 1999 fall season.

Laura Chodola - 5'8", second-year, middle blocker. Missed most part of the season due to academic commitments. Excellent hitting and blocking skills. Needs to work on passing and defense.



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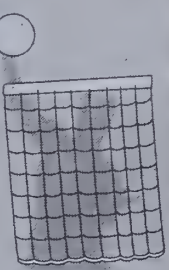
Coed Basketball League

3 men and 2 women/team

Entry Meeting: Wed. Jan 19 @ 5pm Rm.1114
Entry Fee: \$20
Default bond: \$20

Coed Volleyball League

Calling all Volleyball players
Entry Meeting: Thurs. Jan 13 @ 4pm Rm.1130
Entry Fee: \$20
Default bond: \$20
League Runs Thursdays 4-7pm



Coed Indoor Soccer

Entry Meeting: Tue. Jan 18 @ 5pm Rm.1130
Entry Fee: \$20
Default bond: \$20

Send your team representatives to the League Entry Meetings to sign up your team. Individuals who want to play are encouraged to come to the Entry Meetings!

Ballroom Dance

Come and learn the moves. Grab a partner or come on your own. Learn to Waltz, Cha Cha, Rhumba, Swing! Tap dance, Jazz, Ballet and Latin Dance are also available this term
Times: Wednesdays 8:10pm-9:30pm / Jan 19 - March 29
Cost: \$25.00



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LOCATION: Gymnasium
DURATION: January 25 or 28 March 7 or 10 (6 weeks of lessons) Cost \$25.00

S.T.A.R.T. Programs
(Supervised Training and Recreation Time)
Come and learn new skills and polish up old ones. Everyone is invited!

Sport/Activity	Location	Date	Time
Badminton	Gym	January 24	12 - 1 pm
Basketball- Women	Gym	January 31	7 - 8:30 pm
Basketball-Men	Gym	January 31	8:30 - 10 pm
Lacrosse-Women	Gym	January 26	7 - 8 pm
Lacrosse-Men	Gym	January 26	9 - 10 pm
Indoor Rowing	Fit Stop	January 12	12 - 1 pm
Intro to Dance	Studio	January 13	12 - 1 pm
Squash Co-ed	Squash Courts	January 14	6 - 8 pm
Volleyball-Women	Gym	January 18	7 - 8:30 pm
Volleyball-Men	Gym	January 18	8:30 - 10 pm
Yoga	Studio	January 11	5 - 6 pm